

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPM-01 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-20

IGA-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 115990

R 090920Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4749

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

JUESOH/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 1984

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAR ES SALAAM 0422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOCI, TZ

SUBJ: NYERERE MAKES NATIONWIDE ADDRESS ON FOOD SHORTAGES

1. PRESIDENT NYERERE ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 7 THAT HE WOULD MAKE NATIONWIDE RADIO ADDRESS FOLLOWING DAY. SUBJECT MATTER WAS NOT ANNOUNCED. SUCH SPEECHES DO NOT FIT NYERERE'S NORMAL NODUS OPERANDI.

2. HOUR-LONG SPEECH, WHICH WAS GIVEN BEFORE NUMEROUS SENIOR TANZANIAN OFFICIALS IN ADDITION TO WORKING-LEVEL TANU PERSONNEL, DEALT SOLELY WITH FOOD SHORTAGES IN TANZANIA AND PARTICULARLY IN DAR ES SALAAM. NYERERE GAVE DETAILED EXPLANATION FOR SHORTAGES OF THREE KEY FOOD PRODUCTS--MAIZE, RICE, AND WHEAT/FLOUR. HE SAID MAJOR REASONS FOR SHORTAGES ARE POOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION AND INSUFFICIENT RAIN IN NORTHERN PART OF TANZANIA.

3. NYERERE SAID TANGOV IS MAKING MAJOR EFFORT TO RECTIFY SITUATION, PRIMARILY BY IMPORTING CROPS AS FOLLOWS: MAIZE--10,000 TONS FROM MALAWI; 2,500 TONS FROM KENYA (TANZNAIA HAD EARLIER

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HOPED TO PURCHASE 25,000 TONS FROM KENYA); EXPLORING POSSIBILITY

OF 30,000 TONS FROM ZAMBIA; QUOTE 30,000 TONS ARE EXPECTED FROM US BY NEXT MONTH OR APRIL UNQUOTE (SEE DAR ES SALAAM 213 FOR BACKGROUND). RICE--10,000 TONS HAVE BEEN ORDERED FROM PRC AND FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF 2,500 TONS IS EXPECTED IN MID-MARCH. WHEAT--(NYERERE SAID SITUATION HERE IS CRITICAL) 10,000 TONS OF WHEAT FOUR HAVE BEEN ORDERED FROM HOLLAND WITH FIRST CONSIGNMENT EXPECTED MARCH 7; FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF 30,000 TONS GRAIN WHEAT FROM AUSTRALIA IS EXPECTED BY MID-MARCH.

4. NYERERE ANNOUNCED EARLIER IN DAY SHAKEUP AT NATIONAL MILLING CORPORATION (NMC), WHICH AMONG OTHER FUNCTIONS HANDLES MILLING OF WHEAT FLOUR. TWO HIGHLY REGARDED CIVIL SERVANTS--H.R. SHEKILANGO, FORMER REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR IN IRINGA, AND EDWARD BARONGO, FORMER EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF TANZANIA PYRETHRUM BOARD--WERE PLACED IN TOP POSITIONS AT NMC.

5. COMMENT: EMPHASIS GIVEN BY NYERERE TO FOOD SHORTAGE SITUATION ACCURATELY REFLECTS SERIOUSNESS OF PROBLEM IN CERTAIN PARTS OF TANZANIA, PARTICULARLY DAR ES SALAAM. LONG LINES EXIST FOR ABOVE STAPLES AND SOME OTHER ITEMS IN DAR ES SALAAM. IT IS DOMETIMES NECESSARY TO STATION POLICEMEN AT RETAIL OUTLETS TO MAINTAIN ORDER. PART OF PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS RELUCTANCE BY PEOPLE TO SWITCH TO OTHER AVAILABLE FOODS SUCH AS CASSAVA.

CARTER

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